



COOLEMAN RIDGE PARK CARE GROUP

**Newsletter
April 2023**

***Previous Meeting
Sunday 19 March 2023
Darrell Place***

A very hot afternoon saw just three of us (Linda Spinaze, Paul Shiels and Rob Lundie) meet at the end of Darrell Place where we decided it was far too hot to go weeding. So, Paul and Linda set off to map an area of blackberries while Rob cut back a tree to improve access to the Ridge. After about an hour Linda and Paul returned having mapped some African Love Grass on the way.

Rob Lundie

CRPCG Committee Meeting

On 23 March the Committee met to discuss a range of issues. Here are the highlights but contact the Secretary if you would like a copy of the minutes.

The display boxes at Kathner St and Namatjira Dr having been refurbished, the Committee decided that they should house new and detailed maps of the Ridge which would show access points, significant features, walking routes and a QR code for the Newsletter. There would also be photos and information about the Group.

A grant will be sought to obtain new signs, not to replace the refurbished boards but will be larger and be placed more centrally on the Ridge. See other item on this page.

The identification and labelling of trees on the Ridge will continue.

The Committee discussed various weed mapping tools for use on the Ridge.

***Next Meeting
Sunday 16 April 2023
Darrell Place***

Time: 1.30 pm – 4.00 pm.

Meet: Darrell Place.

Bring: hat, gloves, water to drink.

Task: weeding.

Contact: Linda Spinaze 6288 6916

May meeting: Sun 21, Lincoln Place.

New corflute signs will be sought from PCS who will also be asked to repair the Namatjira Dr fence so that the signs can more easily be attached.

The Committee decided that the Group will continue to use the term “Park Care” in its name since this is what the Group called itself for many years, it is on its logo and is its incorporated name. It was noted that the term “ParkCare” was adopted by PCS a few years ago for all the reserves.

Rob Lundie

Government Grant application

Recently the Group applied for an ACT Environmental Grant seeking funds for: Two signs to be placed at entrances to the Ridge advising visitors of the ecological importance of the area and the behaviours that we ask of them;

The contract spraying of targeted weed patches that are beyond the resources of the Group or PCS.

Many thanks to Fiona Spier of the Southern ACT Catchment Group for her invaluable involvement in developing the application. We hope to hear the outcomes at the end of May.

Chris Oates

Curious Echidnas

A friend spotted an echidna wandering through the grass across the northern end of the Old Dam. I stood on the bank and it came right up to me, stood on my boot and sniffed around before continuing on to a tree behind me where it clawed out bits of bark and grubs. I'm not sure what I would have done if it had started climbing up my leg.



Echidna examines Rob's boot Photo: Rob Lundie

In 2017 Lena Fleming had a similar experience on One Tree Hill but she was bare footed!



A moment of trust Photo: Lena Fleming

Rob Lundie

Music inspired by Ridge views

Beyond the ridge, the ranges far, a cello solo inspired by the views from Cooleman Ridge above Darrel Place looking over to the Bullen Range and Brindabellas, will receive its world premiere by the Canberra Symphony Orchestra at Llewellyn Hall on 26 and 27 April. Composed by Harry Sdraulig, it was commissioned by Gisela Püllen and Karl Gordon, and dedicated to Gisela who admires these views. [Tickets](#).

Old Dam in the Pink

The Old Dam has been covered in a pink/red plant since about mid-January. It is not a weed but a native plant called *Ferny Azolla*. It is "a small free-floating fern (0.8-3 cm long) that is green, reddish-green or reddish-purple in colour. Plants have a main stem with several branches regularly arranged on either side and are usually somewhat triangular in shape. These branches readily fragment from the base, leading to the formation of new plants. Its roots have numerous fine side branches that give them a feathery appearance. Its tiny overlapping 'leaves' (1-2 mm long) are alternately arranged along the branches and borne in two regular rows. It can double its leaf area in seven days. The presence of Azolla in a waterway is generally beneficial. However, in circumstances where waterways are extremely rich in nutrients, prolific growth may be a problem. It is also possible that thick, complete coverings of Azolla can cause de-oxygenation of the water." The last reported occurrence was in early 2004. It has not appeared in the Kathner St dam. Further information [here](#) and [here](#):



Azolla covering the Old Dam Photo: Rob Lundie

Rob Lundie